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CURRENT LITERATURE.

BOOK REVIEWS.

The Cyclopedia of American Horticulture.

THE second volume of Bailey's *Cyclopedia*¹ has just been issued, including the letters E-M. The general design and scope of this important work of reference has been set forth already in these pages.² To this nothing need be added beyond the statement that the second volume is even better than the first, a natural improvement as the editors attained greater familiarity with their work and materials.

Aside from the articles treating large and horticulturally important genera like *Gladiolus*, *Iris*, *Mamillaria*, etc., there are some notable articles on general subjects, which serve to illustrate well the wise plan of the book and the thorough treatment of topics. *Forcing* is discussed in its general aspects by Professor Bailey; forcing vegetables, by C. E. Hunn; forcing fruits, by William Turner; and forcing hardy plants, by B. M. Watson. *Ferns* are treated botanically by L. M. Underwood; growing hardy ferns, by Edward Gillett and F. W. Barclay; growing tender ferns, by N. N. Bruckner. Again, in the article *Grape*, the editor writes of the general and historical aspects, while specialists in the various grape-growing regions of the north, the south, and the Pacific slope write of the practical phases of grape culture, and another of grape growing under glass. In the same way the horticultural and historical features of the *Greenhouse* are treated by the editor; Lord and Burnham write of its structural details; glass for it is discussed by J. C. Blair; and the methods of heating by L. R. Taft.

Among the biographical articles, the one on *Asa Gray*, by the editor, is a model of what such writing should be, for here Professor Bailey writes *con amore*, and with clear insight and appreciation. Morphological articles are conspicuously wanting; but perhaps these ought not to be expected. It would seem, however, that fruits might have been discussed from this point of view, as *flower* has been. *Insects* are well treated, and in part morphologically by M. V. Slingerland.—C. R. B.

¹ BAILEY, L. H.: *Cyclopedia of American Horticulture*, comprising suggestions for cultivation of horticultural plants, descriptions of the species of fruits, vegetables, flowers, and ornamental plants sold in the United States and Canada, together with geographical and biographical sketches. Vol. II. E-M. 4to., pp. xiv + 512-1024, figs. 744-1453, pls. 10-19. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1900. \$5.

² BOT. GAZ. 29: 282. 1900.